

The use of the Department of Justice to target reporters who were asking embarrassing questions of the administration, in one case, with the threat of prosecution under the Espionage Act;

The warrantless seizure of the private records of millions of Americans by the National Security Agency;

The increasingly menacing militarization of domestic police agencies;

The shakedown of health care providers to fund advocacy and promotion of ObamaCare;

Frequent assertions by the President of authority to nullify laws that he deems objectionable or inconvenient, despite his clear constitutional mandate to see that the laws are faithfully executed;

The executive's usurpation of the legislative powers of Congress by using the regulatory bureaucracies to impose laws that the elected Congress has specifically refused to enact;

Continued suggestions that the executive may order military operations against other governments without provocation and without congressional authorization.

This week, we are beginning to learn details of the so-called Federal Data Hub, including an excellent article by John Fund of the National Review. According to Fund:

The Department of Health and Human Services is about to hire an army of "patient navigators" to inform Americans about the subsidized insurance promised by ObamaCare and assist them in enrolling. These organizers will be guided by the new Federal Data Hub, which will give them access to reams of personal information compiled by Federal agencies, ranging from the IRS to the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are slowly beginning to realize the threat to individual freedom, personal privacy, and fundamental constitutional principles that these developments pose. Some very bright constitutional lines have been crossed. And my constituents keep asking: What is Congress going to do?

The House has taken the first steps to restore our constitutional checks and balances by focusing its investigatory attention on the unfolding IRS scandal. It is of critical importance that the facts of the case be fully laid out, those responsible identified and removed from positions of trust or authority, and safeguards enacted to ensure that this sort of abuse never happens again.

The House Rules Committee took an important step yesterday by allowing amendments to the Defense Appropriations Act to stop the warrantless seizure of Americans' phone and Internet records by the NSA and to reassert the essential principle with respect to Syria that Congress alone has the prerogative to declare war.

The House is in a position to resist many of these abuses and usurpations through its power to appropriate, but it has often been reluctant to fully assert that authority. The conventional wis-

dom is that the appropriations process will shortly stall and a continuing resolution will be agreed to. That would be a tragic mistake if it leads to the continued funding of these increasingly unconstitutional and authoritarian measures.

All appropriations must start in the House, which means that a simple majority of this body by itself could arrest many of these disturbing developments simply by marshalling the courage and determination to just say "no" by pulling the purse strings shut. If we fail to do so, I believe that we are allowing our Nation to drift dangerously toward a constitutional crisis with grave implications to the rule of law and to the survival of American liberty.

#### HONORING HABERSHAM ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I come from the Ninth District of Georgia, where it's a pleasure to go back there to see the mountains and the rural nature of our district and also the many businesses that make up its economic engine, from agriculture to industries. They are the backbone of the Ninth District.

This morning, I rise to honor one of those backbones of our economic development, Habersham EMC, as it approaches an important milestone. This week, they mark the 75th anniversary of providing clean, reliable, affordable energy to homes and businesses in northeast Georgia.

The Habersham EMC serves Hall, Lumpkin, White, Stephens, and Rabun Counties, as well as its namesake, Habersham County. Habersham EMC is a member-owned cooperative that provides power to more than 33,000 members and maintains approximately 3,700 miles of line.

I had the pleasure of stopping by the Habersham EMC a few months ago to speak with the leadership of this great organization. Todd Pealock, his staff, and the board of directors are wonderful examples of servant leadership that provides an invaluable service to their community.

While I'm sorry to miss the 75th anniversary celebration, I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes to all the Habersham employees and members. I hope the next 75 years will bring even more innovation and continued success in providing the affordable energy needed to fuel our economy.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Dr. Shane Alexander, Northcrest Church of Christ, Mexia, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the Earth. When we consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, who are we that You are mindful of us? What is this country that it might know Your blessings?

Yet You have blessed this land and this government for the people and by the people.

For these Representatives who exercise the people's will, may they be also representatives of Your will. May they speak their consciences and convictions and stand up for what they and their constituents believe.

But give them courage also to speak truth to power and to seek justice for the victims of violence, oppression, and poverty.

Please bless the proceedings of this legislative body today, that through them Your will might be exercised here on Earth as it is in Heaven.

May Your unfailing love be with us, Lord, now and forevermore.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TITUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING DR. SHANE ALEXANDER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States House of Representatives

is honored today to have Dr. Shane Alexander of Mexia, Texas, as the Guest Chaplain. Dr. Alexander is the minister of the North Crest Church of Christ in Mexia, Texas, and has previously preached in other Texas cities. He has been a resident chaplain in Louisville, Kentucky, as well.

He and his wife, Kara, met at Abilene Christian University where both received numerous degrees. Shane has a B.A., a master's, and a Doctor of Ministry from Abilene Christian University.

They have three children: Elizabeth, Peyton, and Levi. They're all here today, along with Shane's parents, Karen and Barry, and my wife, Carol.

Dr. Alexander is active in Mexia and its community, from coaching the girls softball team and boys T-ball, to furthering the spiritual growth of central Texas.

Dr. Alexander enhanced his life by marrying Kara, also Dr. Alexander, who is a professor at Baylor University. I say "enhanced his life" because his wife, Kara, is one of my four children, and Shane is my son-in-law.

We welcome them all to the United States House of Representatives today. And that's just the way it is.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will now entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### JOB AND THE ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the White House, this week, is dusting off the old talking points on jobs and the economy. Hopefully, they will undergo a few revisions.

The President should strike all references to stimulus because that certainly hasn't worked to create jobs. Tax increases, EPA regulations, and any claims that ObamaCare will spur job growth should also be removed. Practical experience tells us those strategies are as empty as the promises used to sell them.

Today's Washington Post includes a sobering indictment of the President's economic handling thus far:

The only part of the Obama economy that has flourished because of Obama policy is Wall Street.

What about Main Street?

What about small businesses?

What about working families?

Working families want affordable health care. Working families don't want the government regulating their jobs out of existence just because Washington looks down on their industry.

House Republicans have a plan for the economy that defends working families. The White House should consider our ideas.

#### MARKING THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLEGAL TURKISH INVA- SION OF CYPRUS

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to mark the 39th anniversary of the illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, Turkish troops invaded and began an unjust occupation of areas in northern Cyprus.

Thousands of Cypriots were forced to leave homes where their families had lived for hundreds of years; and within just a few weeks, the Turks had uprooted centuries of culture, religion, and community. Over the years since then, the Turkish forces have committed unspeakable atrocities and destroyed priceless relics, acts which have been condemned by the European Commission for Human Rights.

So I'm proud to stand today with my fellow Hellenic Caucus members as we join together almost four decades after the illegal and immoral occupation of Cyprus to call, once again, on Turkey to act now and end the occupation.

#### LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, last week's \$19 billion bankruptcy by the city of Detroit should serve as a wakeup call for every American. Chicago, with a reported \$19 billion unfunded pension liability, and Los Angeles, with an estimated \$30 billion in debt, may not be far behind.

Each of these communities practiced the failed tax-and-spend policies of President Obama and the Left. While many progressive policies sound great in theory, both history and current events show these policies don't work in practice.

As Margaret Thatcher said decades ago:

The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money.

We do it better in Indiana. It's not always easy, but Hoosier leaders balance budgets and live within their means. To build a better future, our country needs to follow that example and not Detroit's.

#### KEEP STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES LOW

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I note that the gallery is filled with students and their families. Due to this House's failure to produce realistic bipartisan legislation, the interest rate of college loans has doubled from 3.4 to 6.8 percent for more than 7.4 million students.

We know investing in education is an investment in our Nation's future and in our Nation's economic strength. Not

acting takes \$1,000 per year out of graduates' pockets—\$1,000 not going to savings, not going to buying new cars, not going to buying new homes.

And at this time of historically low interest rates, it just doesn't make any sense for us to further burden our youth.

I call on Congress to keep our rates low so today's youth can prosper like their parents and their grandparents did as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to not make reference to occupants of the gallery.

#### CREATING JOBS IS OUR PRIORITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the President will venture back on the campaign trail to explain his failed economic policies. For months, we have heard the President talk about infringing upon our Second Amendment rights, defending his administration from scandals, and promoting his unworkable, unaffordable care act.

A crucial issue has not been addressed: creating jobs. As more dismal reports expose the sad reality of our weak economy, it is clear he is attempting damage control.

House Republicans have been focused on growing our economy for years. Last Congress we passed over 40 job-creating pieces of legislation. This year we voted to repeal ObamaCare and approve the Keystone pipeline, which would create jobs and give small businesses the certainty to begin hiring.

I appreciate TeaParty.net promoting the truth. Actions speak louder than words. It's time for the President to work with House Republicans to put American families back to work.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LILLIAN KAWASAKI

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Lillian Kawasaki, a veteran public servant and tireless environmental advocate who passed away, sadly, at the age of 62 last week.

I had the honor of working with Lillian during my time on the Los Angeles City Council on our Nation's port, ensuring that it grew green and helped to prove that we can have clean air and good jobs at the same time.

An environmental scientist by training, she was the first Asian American to head the Los Angeles Department of